Information regarding fire incidents in the residential and commercial areas of Chandni Chowk region of old Delhi is as under:–

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Residential Area	01	04	07	02
Commercial Area	07	09	18	07

(b) and (c) Fire safety awareness campaign through electronic a well as print media is launched at regular intervals especially during summer season and festival season. Apart from this, regular educative programmes for school children are organized.

Missing children in the country

1736. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Children Missing', reported to police stations, in the country during last three years, year-wise and their disposal;

(b) out of above the number and percentage of children recovered, year-wise;

(c) the corresponding number of FIRs registered for 'kidnapping/abduction of children' in India and recovery/disposal thereof, year-wise;

(d) what is estimate of NHRC/NGOs regarding number and human tragedy of missing children;

(e) what is Government's reaction regarding apathy/negligence of Police;

(f) the total number of gangs involved in kidnapping/trafficking/selling of children; and

(g) what steps/legislation do Government contemplate therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Specific information in this regard is not maintained centrally since 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and the primary responsibility of detection, registration, investigation and prosecution as well as prevention of crime and maintenance of law and order lies with the State Governments and UT Administrations. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles crime statistics on the basis of First Information Reports received by the police in the country. As missing of persons is not a cognizable crime, NCRB does not collect statistical information in this regard.

NCRB receives case information from States/UTs on missing children for the purpose of coordination only. As the States generally do not report back whether any person has been traced back on the basis of result of coordination, the information is not complete.

(c) A statement containing the details of number of cases registered of kidnapping and abduction of children, number of cases charge-sheeted, and number of cases convicted is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with UNIFEM and Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), New Delhi had conducted an Action Research Study on Trafficking in Women and Children in India. The report, which was released on 24.8.2004, in the Chapter on 'Missing Persons and Trafficking' states that the number of children reported missing from 1996 to 2001 (six years) from the States/UTs aggregate to 44,476 and of these, 11,008 children remain untraced annually.

(e) Ministry of Home Affairs, from time to time, has been issuing advisories to all the State Governments and UT Administrations to give more focused attention to the administration of criminal justice system with emphasis on prevention and control of crimes, especially against children. Besides above, State Governments have been advised to evolve a need to sensitize and train police officials at all levels has also been emphasized.

In association with UNODC, MHA has initiated a two years project on 'Strengthening Law Enforcement Response against Trafficking in Persons through Training and Capacity Building'.

(f) As per tbe Central Bureau of Investigation, 714 gangs comprising 4289 members were involved in kidnapping for ransom, 87 gangs comprising 359 members in kidnapping for prostitution and 14 gangs comprising of 57 members were involved in kidnapping of minors for begging.

(g) To make the law more effective, MWCD has prepared an 'Offences Against Children (Prevention) Bill' for placing before the Cabinet Committee. The Bill, besides several other stringent legal provisions also recommends suitable punishment for kidnapping and abduction of the children. Besides above, the MWCD is in the process of putting in place a National Website for Missing Children with the support of UNICEF and National Informatics Centre. MWCD has already constituted a Core Committee for this purpose. The website on missing children on pilot basis has been launched in the State of West Bengal in May, 2007 with the help of UNICEF. State Governments have been advised to set up a missing persons website and regularly update data related to missing children.

Statement

Number of cases registered of kidnapping and abduction of children and disposal of cases during the year 2003, 2004 *and* 2005

Sub-Head: Kidnapping and Abduction Period	Total number of cases registered against children kidnapping and abduction	No. of cases charge-sheeted	No. of cases convicted
2003	2571	1857	326
2004	3196	2155	413
2005	3518	2409	487